

~~the bottom groove cheek being shorter than the top groove cheek,~~

~~a gradation is provided on the bottom groove cheek which widens only a portion of the groove and a tapered surface is provided between said widened portion of the groove and the remainder of the groove,~~

~~the tongue is provided in its root portion with a section of greater thickness than the remainder of the tongue forming a thicker tongue portion, the thickness in the remaining portion of the tongue being connected to said thicker tongue portion via a tapered surface,~~

~~whereby when the locking lip enters the groove during assembly of the parquet board with an adjacent parquet board, the thicker portion of the tongue is not yet engaged in the graduated portion of the groove so that the parquet board having the tongue can be displaced slightly downwards to facilitate the passage of the locking lip into the groove.~~

Please amend claims 2-6 and 10-12 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of the claims, reflecting the amendments made, is attached as Attachment I.

2. (Amended) The parquet board of claim 13, wherein an entry edge of the top groove cheek is provided with a tapered surface.

3. (Amended) The parquet board of claim 13, wherein the locking lip has an edge closest to a free end of the tongue and said edge is provided with a tapered or rounded surface.

4. (Amended) The parquet board of claim 13, wherein the top cheek of the parquet board projects beyond the groove so that when assembled with an adjacent parquet board, the boards come into contact with each other so as to form a useful top surface.

5. (Amended) The parquet board of claim 13, wherein the tongue is sized such that, when in an assembled position with an adjacent board the tongue does not have a length which completely fills the groove, such that there is a gap between tongue and an end of the groove.

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6. (Amended) The parquet board of claim 13, wherein when the board is in an assembled position with an adjacent parquet board, there is at least a small gap between an edge of the locking lip and the corresponding edge of the locking recess.

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10. (Amended) The parquet board of claim 13, wherein when the board is in an assembled position with at least one adjacent parquet board, there is at least a small gap between the tapered surfaces on the groove and on the tongue.

11. (Amended) The parquet board of claim 13, wherein the parquet board is shaped as a slim, elongated rectangle, and in that the groove and tongue profile is provided on the opposite longitudinal sides.

12. (Amended) The parquet board of claim 13, wherein there is a tapered surface at an outer end of the tongue, on a bottom side of the tongue.

Please cancel claims 7-9 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claim 14 as follows:

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14. (New) The parquet board of claim 13, wherein the board further comprises a front end above the projecting tongue, wherein said top end is shaped such that, when assembled with an adjacent parquet board having a groove, said top end contacts the top cheek of said adjacent board so as to form a useful top surface.